Musket

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The LHS Advanced Jazz Combo, (from left to right) senior Joshua Prensky, senior Peter Adams, senior Tony Callis, junior Rony Sarker, senior Torkel Svanes, junior Doug Thompson, takes a breather before performing March 22 in a promotional concert organized to raise money to send the group to MusicFest USA which will be in Philadelphia. Photo by Mako Yoshino

Jazz Combo Tuned Up

By Sara Dempster
and Sharon Glick

In the past month and a half, the Lexington High School Advanced Jazz Combo has made a clean sweep of area jazz competitions, capturing first place in the Massachusetts State Jazz Festival, the University of New Hampshire Jazz Festival, and the Berklee College of Music Jazz Festival.

Acting Coordinator of Music Jeffrey Leonard, director of the Jazz Combo, said that winning the state competition was "a real accomplishment" because, for the first time, Lexington finished ahead of Foxboro and Norwood, "the best groups for 12 years running."

"There is something that touches the souls of the audience in every concert we do."

—Director
Jeffrey Leonard

"They still have great musicians," he added, "it's just that this year our group is so good."

The six-member combo consists of four seniors, Peter Adams, piano and synthesizers; Tony Callis, drums; Joshua Prensky, percussion; and Torkel Svanes, trumpet and flugelhorn.

Guitarist Rony Sarker and bass guitarist Doug Thompson are both juniors.

"From my point of view it's satisfying to have been working for years and years at this and to finally be at the top," said Leonard, "And we can definitely say we're at the top."

Adams noted, "Last year we had a group that was real good that Tony and I were in and we came in second at all these festivals. Then, with the addition of these three guys and Josh, we're really bustin'em up now."

The group's victory at the state festival on March 16 entitles it to perform at the hatshell on the esplanade in Boston at the end of May.

As a result of its success at the Berklee Festival on February 25, the group was invited to attend the national jazz competition, MusicFest USA, from April 27 to May 1 in Philadelphia.

According to Leonard, approximately 230 groups applied to go to the national competition in Orlando last year, but only 12 qualified to attend.

"There's a real nice thing to be said about winning a lot of trophies," he said, "but the bottom line to this group is not that sort of athletic event mentality — go out

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S.C., Waring Reach Accord

Parties Sign Settlement: Waring to Remain in System For No More Than Two Years

By Sharon Glick
and Sara Dempster

On March 22, the Lexington School Committee unanimously approved a settlement resolving the two-year legal dispute between the committee and Lexington High School Principal Michael G. Waring.

The settlement of Waring's lawsuit against the committee states that Waring will remain at the High School as principal until the end of the next school year. Beginning July 1, 1990, he will take an assistant superintendent position in the school system, from which he will resign on June 30, 1991.

To assist Waring in his search for future employment, the committee will pay for "outplacement services" until July 1, 1990, and will provide Waring with a letter of recommendation written by Superintendent of Schools Philip E. Geiger.

Under the terms of the agreement, Waring will receive approximately $40,000 made up of back pay, withheld salary increments, and interest. In addition, he will receive from the School Committee's insurance company $125,000 towards his legal fees.

The School Committee agreed to withdraw its appeal of Judge Hiller Zobel's Superior Court ruling of the case, and, with the exception of Judith Leader, the individual members consented to release Waring from any subsequent legal claims pertaining to the case. In turn, Waring released each member except Leader.

In addition, accumulated vacation days lost by Waring during his forced absence in 1987-1988 will be restored in full.

"I'm satisfied [with the settlement]," said Waring. "I will not go into any greater detail on that except to say that I am satisfied."

"I would be happy, or more satisfied, if I knew that it weren't costing me any of my own money," he added.

"I think it's good to both sides," said former School Committee Chairperson Paul Newman, "I think if you look at the terms of the agreement it is fair. It provides some certainty. I think it lets people move on. If this whole thing was distracting to people, it

"If this whole thing was distracting to people, it needn't be anymore"

—former School Committee member
Paul Newman

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Tenure Denied Gearhart

By Annika Hipple

On March 28, the Lexington School Committee voted, 3-2, to accept Superintendent of Schools Philip E. Geiger's recommendation not to tenure K-12 Math Coordinator George Gearhart. Gearhart will be the first Lexington school administrator denied tenure.

The decision to grant tenure is made after three years of consecutive employment. If granted, tenure virtually guarantees lifetime employment. If tenure is denied, the candidate is basically forced to seek employment elsewhere since he/she cannot remain employed in the position previously held.

On February 28, the School Committee agreed to postpone the decision on granting Gearhart tenure until the March 28 meeting. Yet, according to the state tenure statute, in order for the committee to grant tenure, the Superintendent must give a positive recommendation of the candidate.

While Geiger said he could not divulge his reasons for denying Gearhart tenure, he said he felt a candidate for tenure must have "tremendous leadership qualities" and must be able to "maximize instruction."

Gearhart commented that he hadbeen informed of Geiger's reasons, "only verbally, not in writing."

Regardless of whether tenure is granted or not, Gearhart will continue as math coordinator until the end of the 1988-89 school year. At present, Geiger stated that he plans to advertise the position nationwide to seek qualified candidates.

According to Lexington Education Association's (LEA) Professional Rights and Responsibilities Board Chairman James Cawley, a grievance was filed with Geiger on Gearhart's behalf. The grievance charged that the evaluation of Gearhart was not carried out correctly — that procedures were not followed.

Prior to discussing Geiger's evaluation, the School Committee voted unanimously, on March 28, to grant the grievance.

Cawley said, "A lot of people feel he is very capable. I personally feel he should have been granted early tenure, not denied it."

LEA President Margaret Schwartz commented, "If I were superintendent and saw a candidate of Mr. Gearhart's caliber...I would hire him in a minute."

Schwartz added, "I have never encountered anyone with anything bad to say about him." She said that her opinion was based not only on her own experiences with Gearhart, but also on "the comments of people who have been managed by him."

When asked whether he has been reevaluating Gearhart since releasing his decision, Geiger said, "I have met with everyone who has asked me to meet with him," but he did not say whether he has been reconsidering his recommendation.

Geiger said that he thought that he and the rest of the school community were "dealing with the question of tenure differently," and added that he set a "high standard" since tenure essentially means that a person cannot be dismissed without "the burden of proof of

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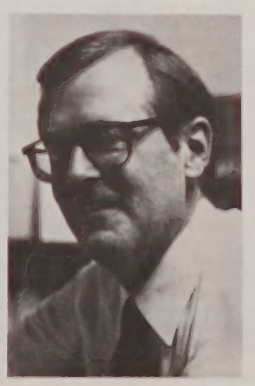

K-12 Math Coordinator George Gearhart. Photo by Mako Yoshino

Election Held

Coit, Oberteuffer Win S.C. Seats

By Michael Sonnenschein

On March 6th, John A. Oberteuffer and Lois Coit were elected to the Lexington School Committee replacing outgoing members Florence Koplow and Chairperson Paul Newman. Both Koplow and Newman had served two three-year terms as committee members.

Coit received 2770 votes; Oberteuffer, 2606; and Julian Bussgang, the runner-up, 2496. A total of 4683 Lexington citizens voted, each with the option of casting one or two votes for School Committee members.

Coit said she found that there was a "consensus" among the high school parents whom she spoke to that "they did not feel as good as they should sending their kids [to the High School]."

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VAX Attracts Senate Debate

By Carol Sohn

The High School's Student/Faculty Senate recently passed a motion directing interested parties to explore the idea of opening up facilities outside of the Student Library for student use of VAX terminals. The motion was suggested while the Senate debated a new bill that would allow students to use VAX machines for any purpose.

If the bill is approved, VAX terminals in the Student Library would be available to students for personal use, but students who need the computer for "a school-related purpose will have priority over other users." The machines are hooked up to a main-frame computer, which allows direct communication between users.

On March 22, the second session in which the Senate discussed the VAX Bill, the following motion was passed: "That the School Climate Committee, Dr. Waring, the librarians, and all interested parties be directed to explore the facilities outside the library for student use [of VAX terminals]."

Beginning March 15, the Senate met to discuss the VAX Bill. Library/Media Director Kenneth Skinner, who spoke for the Library staff at the first meeting, said that although the use of the machine "has a lot of value" when used for school purposes, "there's been a lot of garbage, a lot of junk, that's been appearing" on the screens, such as computer games and messages to meet friends after school.

Skinner said that such use of the terminals caused crowds of "up to six people," who made noise and disturbed other students studying in the Library. He also said that it was not "appropriate" for the Senate to be dealing with the use of VAX terminals in the Student Library, but that he would be willing to sit down with a group of students and work out an agreement for use of the terminals.

Senior Joanna White, one of the submitters of the bill, responded that games do not make any excessive noise and are therefore no more disruptive than a student typing at a computer keyboard.

Senator William Meade, a special needs teacher, added that "games are the best way to learn to use a computer" and that "whatever a person does on the computer is educational because it broadens the base of our knowledge."

Math teacher Benjamin Levy, also a math teacher, raised the point that, while Macintosh computers are open to any student use in the Word Processing Center, the VAX machines are not. Levy said that the main-frame computer should be open to the "large number of people who want to use the VAX for their personal purposes."

> "There's been a lot of garbage, a lot of junk, that's been appearing [on VAX screens]."
>
> —Library/Media Director Kenneth Skinner

Amidst the debate over personal use of the computer, sophomore Senator Yeh-Jiun Tung said that the bill should be seen as "progress toward a compromise" between students and the Library staff.

Fellow classmate, senator Ethan Ehrenberg said that any use of the VAX "still maintains the atmosphere of the Library" and that there should be some "atmosphere of fun in this school."

Senior Joanna White supports the VAX Computer Bill. Photo by Mako Yoshino

In other business of note, during its March 29 session, the Senate passed a bill that increased by two days the deadline at which teachers must submit grade cards.

Also, the Senate voted down a bill forbidding students to answer telephones in administrative offices.

The Senate spent its March 1 and 8 meetings continuing its debate over the rescheduling of its meeting time. Senior Alex Phillips, a senator, conducted a student survey during homerooms, and said that preliminary results indicated that about 10 percent of the student body had attended a Senate meeting, and more that 25 percent could not explain what the Senate was.

The overwhelming majority of the polled students also indicated that, given the choice, they would prefer to sleep later than go to school to attend Senate meetings held at 7:55 a.m. or participate in "special interest activities" such as community service and extra academic help. Both the survey and the Senate debates occurred as a result of the perception that non-senators rarely attended meetings and generally did not know about the issues on the Senate floor. Discussion initially began in order to respond to a letter sent to Senate Moderator Janet Doherty, a senior, from Superintendent of Schools Philip E. Geiger.

Phillips submitted five motions on March 8, four of which were passed. One motion mandated the creation of a weekly Senate newspaper and another requested the printing of a pamphlet describing the procedures of the body to be given to anyone attending a Senate meeting. The pamphlet has since become available.

In addition, senators will now be available in cafeterias during lunch blocks to answer questions asked by constituents.

The Senate plans, in accordance with the LHS Constitution, to examine its meeting time.

Social Studies Chair Departs

By Jeremy Giller

Clyde R. Davenport has resigned from his position as social studies department head after a 29-year teaching career at Lexington High School. Acting Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum David A. Wilson will replace Davenport on an interim basis.

Davenport said he resigned because of unhappiness with "the central office over the last few years and the last year in particular." Effective next school year, he will have resigned as a teacher.

Davenport said of his future plans, "I'm a teacher at Harvard and I run a small program there and I'm currently looking for a [full-time] job at the university." Davenport said that his decision to resign in the middle of the school year occurred because he needed time to both look for a new job and prepare for the upcoming state inspection of his program at Harvard.

Asked whether he was surprised at Davenport's resignation, Wilson said, "He's been talking about doing something different for a number of years. Perhaps the timing was a little surprising."

According to Davenport, who has been at the the High School since 1960, "During the '60s and '70s it was a very much looser place than it is now. There was a lot more individual freedom for students and staff...When I first [came to the High School] it was a very conservative, small-town school, and then it became liberal...and now I think it's being very conservative again."

Davenport stated, "I'm going to miss my teaching the most. I really enjoyed teaching and I really enjoyed teaching economics...I'm sorry to give that up."

Wilson said his duties as assistant superintendent relate in a number of ways to the position of social studies department head. "I was a social studies teacher. I'm familiar with the department and the people, so I feel very comfortable. [Social studies is] part of the overall responsibility of curriculum in the schools...It's one of the four major [subject] areas and certainly falls within my domain."

"We do what we need to do here," Wilson said of his additional duties. "It requires additional work, but it'll get done."

Wilson said, "What I'm trying to do is to be sure that the department is able to complete its objectives in terms of curriculum...and planning for curriculum overhaul. I want to complete the [teacher] observations and evaluations which are required of the department. I'm in the process of doing that and I'm trying to develop some sense of direction and goals for next year."

Wilson said he is looking to hire a K-12 coordinator before filling the high school department head position, but that the interviews have yet to begin for the former position and that the latter position has yet to be advertised.

Former Social Studies Department Head Clyde R. Davenport will leave after 29 years at the High School. Photo by Mako Yoshino

Gartner Resigns

By Jeremy Giller

Dr. Kenneth Gartner, Coordinator of Music Education, has resigned just six months after his appointment at Lexington High School. His position will be filled temporarily by music teacher Jeffrey Leonard.

When he first met Gartner in June 1988, Leonard was "enthusiastic [because Gartner] seemed very well qualified...He made a very, very good first impression." However, Leonard continued, "It's fair to say my expectations weren't met...He seemed to take a long time to learn the job.

"I guess that the final bottom line was that it was very evident that the work wasn't getting done," said Leonard. "The department staff was having to cover a lot of the work."

> "It was seen everywhere that [Gartner] was not doing his work and only promoting himself."
>
> —Acting Music Coordinator Jeffrey Leonard

He continued, "It was seen everywhere that he was not doing his work and only promoting himself...to only lift a finger to promote yourself — that's contrary to everything we've ever tried to do here in the music department."

"The only reason there were personality conflicts was that we were really tired of doing his work for him so we were getting angry because we had to go around cleaning up his messes after him," explained Leonard.

Leonard had to assume the position of acting coordinator of music education last year, as well, when former coordinator Georgiann Berry died.

Leonard noted, "It is my impression that he was asked to leave by [Superintendent of Schools Philip E.] Geiger. I can't believe that [Gartner] wouldn't want to stay until the end of the year."

Leonard stressed, however, that he was not in the room with Gartner and Geiger during the negotiations and therefore "couldn't be sure exactly what happened."

Despite making attempts, *Musket* was unable to question Geiger as to the circumstances surrounding Gartner's resignation.

"I'm doing essentially two full-time jobs for the school system," said Leonard. "It's a lot bigger load than a teacher should have to carry, but it's something that has to be done."

He continued, "I'm so involved in the department and I care so much about what goes on around here [that doing another job] doesn't bother me that much."

The position of coordinator will be advertised in April and the interviews will begin in May, according to Leonard. An interview committee will screen the finalists. The committee will be composed of principals, administrators, music teachers, students, and parents.

Leonard expects to hold the acting coordinator's position through the end of the 1988-89 school year.

LHS Celebrates Pride Week II

By Emily Dennison

The second annual Lexington High School Pride Week, held March 6-10, brought students and faculty together in an effort to improve the school's atmosphere.

Events scheduled for the week included a lunch time jazz concert featuring the award-winning LHS Advanced Jazz Combo, a student/faculty volleyball tournament, and a cafeteria decoration contest, in addition to Blue-and-Gold Day, an event reminiscent of the first Pride Week.

Deemed the "most successful" event of the week by junior Dave Jacobsen, Blue-and-Gold Day saw many students and faculty members clad in the Lexington colors.

Over 12 teams participated in the single elimination volleyball tournament, the first of its kind at the High School. The final match was a showdown between a team of seniors and a team of teachers. Led by volleyball coach David Lautman, the faculty team emerged victorious by a substantial margin.

"It seemed like a lot of fun," explained one sophomore who attended the tournament.

D-House cafeteria, decorated by the junior class council, was honored as the best decorated of the four cafeterias in contention. According to junior Catherine Hart, floor-to-ceiling banners proclaiming the juniors' pride in LHS "made the difference."

Senior Kristina Egan said that C-House, F-House, and J-House cafeterias, decorated by the senior, sophomore, and freshmen classes, respectively, were also effective in conveying their messages of class spirit.

Classes also ran fund-raisers throughout the week, selling

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At the Physics Challenge held in conjunction with the LHS Science Fair, senior Ian Carroll prepares to test his "tall and strong tower," one of the contests judged that evening. Photo by Mako Yoshino

Prince Dauntless, played by senior Dan Berger, struggles to keep pace with the exuberant Princess Winifried, played by senior Rosalind Landman, during the Saturday night, March 18, performance of *Once Upon a Mattress*.
Photo by Kelley Burke

Mattress Produced Without Lumps

By Angela Yin

The curtains of the newly renovated LHS auditorium opened on March 17th and 18th at 8 o'clock p.m. to reveal the magical setting of this year's musical, *Once Upon A Mattress*.

The musical is a comical rendition of a well-known fairy tale, *The Princess and the Pea*. The minstrel, performed by junior Andrew Ho (Friday night) and junior Peter Welch (Saturday night), begins the musical by singing the tale of *The Princess and the Pea* while dancers in flowing costumes help the audience to visualize the fairy tale. The curtain then opens to reveal the first scene of *Once Upon A Mattress*.

Senior Daniel Berger played the role of the awkward and naive Prince Dauntless who is searching for a true princess to marry. Twelve princesses try out, but none are accepted by the overprotective and loudmouthed Queen Aggravain, played by junior Melissa Feldman (Friday) and junior Laura Pesin (Saturday). The Queen gives each princess an unfair and impossible test. The situation is all the more desperate because Sir Harry's beloved Lady Larken is pregnant with his child and the country's marriage law states that none may marry until Dauntless marries.

In an attempt to remedy the problem, Harry, played by junior Sean Cohen (Friday) and junior Jason Newcomb (Saturday), decides to search for a true princess. After three long weeks, Harry finds eccentric Winnifred, performed by senior Wendy Frank (Friday) and senior Rosalind Landman (Saturday), an unrefined princess from the Land of the Swamps. Nevertheless, everyone in court likes her and wants her to stay — with the exception of the Queen. She and her wizard devise a test of sensitivity for the princess: a pea under twenty downy mattresses. If the pea disturbs her slumber, than she must be a true princess. The minstrel finds out the nature of the secret test and places swords and shields under the top mattress in order that Winnifred not go to sleep. Therefore, she passes the test and can marry Dauntless.

Upon going backstage, one found Sandi Peaslee and Valerie Norwood, respectively the music and drama directors of *Once Upon a Mattress*. Norwood found this year's "fluffy and silly" musical comedy was a relief from the more "serious intonations" of the musicals done in the last three years: *Fiddler on the Roof, Merrily We Roll Along*, and *West Side Story*. Jeff Leonard, the orchestral director of *Once Upon A Mattress*, held the a similar view. "It's fun to do something light," he said.

The renovations of the LHS auditorium produced many difficulties for the cast of *Once Upon a Mattress*. For instance, the cast often had to rehearse in a music room while the stage was being renovated. However, Norwood was "happy about the way the cast adjusted to the problems."

The renovations produced difficulties for the crew as well. Because the old stage storage room was converted to dressing rooms, there was no storage room in which to put the props or store the set while it was being worked on. To resolve some of the inconveniences, the costumes and set drops were rented and the props were designed to simplify the show as much as possible.

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Lexington Bands Rock for AIDS

By Abbie Weber

The bands that performed at the third annual *Rock For AIDS* concert were able to satisfy everyone, from followers of Anthrax to Beatlemaniacs.

The concert, actually the fifth of its kind, took place at the First Congressional Church in Winchester on Saturday, March 11th. In addition to two previous *Rock for AIDS* concerts, a *Rock for Hunger* was held in Winchester in March, 1987 and a *Rock for Homeless* took place in Lexington during June of that year. Both concerts were so successful in helping their causes that the concept was made into an annual event.

Conceived by the mind of youth group director Ashley Rooney, the original concert came about in an attempt to help kids and society at the same time. "I was new in town [Winchester] as youth minister," explained Rooney, who also runs Everyone's Youth Group for the Church of Our Redeemer. "And the kids in town were getting in trouble with parties, etc. I was also appalled that there was no hunger service. I talked to the kids and found that they really wanted to do more, so I talked with a friend (another kid) and we came up with the concert idea."

Why is this idea attractive to so many teenagers? Rooney reasoned, "Music is a media — how kids express themselves, and the bands and the others could feel good about helping." There seem to be other benefits to playing in *Rock for AIDS*. Mirage guitarist Marc McLeod described the atmosphere after he and his band had performed: "It was cool: After the show, the kids treated us like we were Metallica."

The kids in the youth group also were involved in the preparation side of the concert. Publicity, especially, was a major job involving contacting radio and television stations, putting up posters and attracting the bands to originally audition. Many of the bands tried out because they had either participated or attended one of the four previous concerts and wanted to take part this time. LHS junior Peter Welch of the Sticky Hippos had seen Winchester band Just the Facts at the last concert and knew then that he wanted to perform in the concert this year. Ron Sarker, whom Ashley describes as a "good friend," has performed in all three *Rock for AIDS* concerts and looks at them as a chance "to play out. They're fun and if it is for a good cause then it is all the better."

Mass publicity is a major objective for Rooney and the youth group. At their first concert, a documentary was made showing the effort being made by kids to help others. It is now in circulation. At the same concert, channels 4, 5, and 7 were present for coverage.

This year, WBCN's Tammi Heidi hosted the event. Last June, Rooney wrote in an effort to get Heidi to attend. "Tammi came and really liked it," Rooney said. "This year she not only took over the role of DJ for the concert, but she pushed the idea a lot over the air." Interest was also shown by channel 4's "Time to Care" program and the concert was covered by Winchester's cable channel 19.

> "It was cool: After the show, the kids treated us like we were Metallica."
>
> —Mirage Guitarist Marc McLeod

Governor Michael S. Dukakis was also informed of the effort. "Asking the Governor's office was my way of making the idea new and sexy," said Rooney. Unfortunately, Dukakis himself was unable to attend due to personal problems but an official from the Governor's office, Bill Patterson, was sent to tell all that indeed Dukakis was excited about what was happening and that he sent his best wishes.

In total, five bands performed in this March's *Rock For AIDS*, but seven originally tried out. Rooney added, "There would have been more, but some of them forgot." Auditions were held through people's choice, meaning that anyone who came to see the bands' tryouts had a say in whether in which bands would play in the

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Students Hounded by Pet Peeves

By Shanna Liptzin

Grades, college applications, injustice in the world — there are large issues that tend to bother and worry most students. However, there are also many annoying little occurrences that are bothersome but don't get much attention. At instances, these "pet peeves" are more irritating than larger issues.

Students and teachers spend many hours together every week. Teachers can be irksome when they assign no deadlines for a set of homework problems or claim that there are no questions on a test about a certain subject — after which several questions on the subject appear. Almost as annoying, according to senior Kristina Egan, is that teachers sometimes do not answer a question because "it's not on the test."

Aside from peeves involving grades or the subject matter itself, the classroom is filled with annoyances. Senior Kirsten Fantasia claimed that it drives her crazy when teachers do not erase the blackboard fully and leave a little line. Another senior, Karen Mark, was recently an unsuspecting victim of her own pet peeve; she put her knee up under a desk and her pants stuck to the gum someone had left behind. Mechanical pencils can also be irritating: When one is trying to write, the pencil lead often has other ideas and retracts back into the pencil case. Senior Sonia Herrmann is unique in that she feels very uncomfortable if a pencil is held in front of her at a certain angle.

School is a dangerous place for those who cannot handle small annoyances. Most students despise getting skip notices in homeroom for classes they did not skip. Senior Alisha Bloom finds it annoying when she is leaving the library and the beeper goes off even though she has no library books in her bag. The temperature of the school is often a problem, especially in the gym locker room. Egan noted that she often feels cold before gym class but feels much too hot afterwards. Gym locker combinations can be extremely annoying when they cannot be remembered. Forgetting a calculator for a physics test, or for that matter, chemistry or math, is also quite irritating.

Listening to others speak can sometimes make students (and probably non-students) cringe. For some, it is difficult to concentrate on what someone is saying when he or she says "like" or "you know" five times in every sentence. Hearing someone complain that if something goes wrong, he or she is "going to cry" irritates freshman Angela Delichatsios. Freshman Gina Coplon hates it when someone tells a joke and one of the listeners who found the joke funny repeats it in its entirety.

Certain questions and remarks can be extremely annoying. A senior noted that she hates it when someone starts to say something and then says "Oh, forget it," or "Oh, I can't tell you." As sophomore Jessica Bloom elaborated, when a friend decides not to tell her something after making a fuss and arranging a time to meet and talk, Bloom becomes especially annoyed. Talking about the prom incessantly bothers junior Patty Flaherty. Most students would probably agree with senior Daniel Berger that it is frustrating and irritating when you are about to do something and someone else asks or tells you to do just that. A question that irritates many, especially seniors, is "What were your [SAT] scores?" At least as irritating is "Have you heard

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When a friend arranges a time to talk but then refuses to say anything, sophomore Jessica Bloom is annoyed. Photo by Mako Yoshino

Both neutral-color nylons and incompletely erased blackboards irritate senior Kirsten Fantasia.
Photo by Jon Yoken

Waring Settlement

At long last, the much anticipated resolution to the Waring incident has arrived. Although the settlement between Principal Michael G. Waring and the School Committee contains several surprises, the high school community now has the opportunity to wish the past good riddance and to usher in a more positive era. Supporters of Waring can look forward to at least one, at most two, more years of his leadership, while those who bemoan Waring's management style can breathe a sigh of relief at his certain departure.

It has become apparent that the School Committee's June 1987 decision to charge Waring with "inefficiency" and "conduct unbecoming" was an unwise and poorly considered action. More recently, the committee's choice to appeal Judge Zobel's ruling appears to have been designed to increase its leverage in dealing with Waring. With such a weak case, there was little hope for the committee to emerge victorious from the Supreme Judicial Court. Waring's willingness to negotiate, perhaps because of his financial situation, saved the School Committee from possible further embarrassment. That the agreement is so partial to Waring implies that the School Committee members realized the no-win position the town was in.

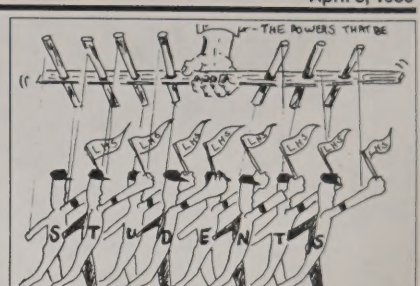
Regardless of the implications, Waring ought to be very satisfied with the terms of the settlement. The Principal's liberal management techniques are nearly the polar opposite of Superintendent Philip E. Geiger's stricter methods. The town seems to be shifting towards a more conservative educational viewpoint. Waring's future in Lexington, even without court ordeals, looked bleak. Now, Waring has compensation for his withheld salary, a substantial chunk of his legal fees paid, assurances of a letter of recommendation, over twenty additional vacation days, and two years of job security. Also, in providing outplacement service through June 1990, the town, spending its own money, will effectively help "shop" Waring around. One may surmise that the July 1, 1990 deadline for the outplacement services indicates the School Committee's hope that Waring will have landed a new job — in a new community — by this date, and that he will never serve as an assistant superintendent. If, however, this hope proves false, the High School can expect still another reassignment of administrators.

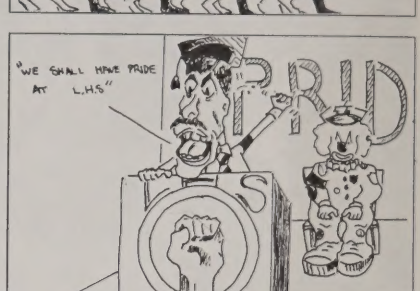
In her failure to release Waring from potential legal claims, School Committee member Judith Leader seems unwilling to make her peace with the Principal. If she truly desires harmony at the High School, Leader would be well-advised to take no more legal action.

Musket is grateful that an agreement has been reached and hopeful that Waring can ably administer the High School despite his "lame-duck" status. We are optimistic that all conditions around the High School will benefit from a return to a predictable future. Too much strife has already tainted this academic year. With an eye to the future, the School Committee should look to hire a new principal, Waring's replacement, who will strengthen the High School without destroying its quickly deteriorating tradition of faith among students, faculty, and administrators.

The High School can finally prosper from a focus on education rather than attempting to thrive on chaos.

Such unsigned editorials express the general opinions of the entire Musket *editorial board.*





Another Path to LHS Pride

To have school pride is to take pleasure in the school environment. The second edition of LHS Pride Week featured Blue-and-Gold Day, student/faculty volleyball, Beach Day, and other activities aimed at improving school spirit. While such events are fun and healthy for the school, it is worth noting that there are additional, more substantive ways to build school pride. Volunteering for community service, inherently valuable because of the actions themselves, can also contribute to the foundation of school pride.

With the advent of the new Community Service Bill, there will be increased participation in volunteer work. Much of this interest in community service could be channeled into improving aspects of the High School. As improvements result, pride in the school would also grow. Examples of areas that would benefit from student service include cleaning up the campus, preventing litter, and visually enhancing the school's buildings and grounds. Students who belong to the National Honor Society could further the process by devoting more hours toward developing the High School.

In addition to organizing "fun" but somewhat superficial events, class councils could cause an influx in school pride by encouraging classmates to join in attempts to improve the school. The councils' leadership in forging a united effort to increase community service would be beneficial. Also, particularly with the new community service requirements, organizing group trips in which students participate in volunteer work outside of the school could help produce pride within each student class.

The High School contains diverse groups of students. The principle connecting point among these groups is the school itself. By giving to the school, perhaps through volunteering for community service, students would strengthen both the school and themselves. True school pride would be the result.

Such unsigned editorials express the general opinions of the entire Musket *editorial board.*

Letters to the Editor

Prices of Senior Portraits Defended

To the Editor:

I enjoyed Anne Duncan's satirical editorial on the disparity between the costs of senior and underclass portraits. The reasons for these differences, however, are many. First, the number of senior poses is greater — ten as opposed to one. Second, the size of each senior negative is larger. Finally, lab processes involving developing, refinishing, and retouching are done individually.

The prices of LHS pictures are competitive with other high schools offering a high quality of pictures to students.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Karen Mechem

Principals Ignore Graduation Wishes

To the Editor and members of the Senior Class:

I would like to inform you of a ruling passed by the four assistant principals and Dr. Waring concerning our graduation. In a recent meeting they decided that besides the guest speaker, there would be only one student speaker and no teacher speaker at our graduation. The student would be chosen by a designated class council committee. This is unlike past years when two students and a teacher addressed the class. Additionally, the class president served as master of ceremonies. According to Assistant Principal Larry Robinson, the principals' decision was reached because of alleged complaints from members of last year's graduating class. The first concern was the time involved. Each of the student's speeches took over ten minutes to be delivered. Some graduates felt that this was too long to wait to receive a diploma. The second reason cited was concern that some of the content in the speeches was offensive. Mr. Robinson pointed out that once a student rose to speak there was no way to monitor what that student said. The reason given that a teacher would not speak was the feeling that students would be upset about having a teacher speak while no student did. Therefore, the principals did away with that option altogether.

Personally I am offended and upset by this ruling. The principals took it upon themselves to cut back on graduation without discussing the decision with the people for whom this day is designed, namely us seniors. Never were members of the senior class solicited for their opinion, nor was the class council, the class president, or anyone for whom this decision means something. Instead, they based their decision solely on a few complaining graduates of last year. The problem is that our class is different from last year's and what those graduates would want is not necessarily what we want. If the principals are concerned about time and content, there is a simple remedy. Each potential speech is screened by the graduation committee of theclass council. At this time, the committee could easily determine if a speech would run over, say, five minutes. Also, any offensive language could be requested to be removed before a speech would be considered by the committee. Finally, it is a tradition for the class to vote for whom it wishes to speak. In this way, the class as a whole decides who will best represent it and in a sense, the class accepts the responsibility for what is said. Besides, who of us would stand up on perhaps the most important day of our educational careers and say things which would draw scorn and shame upon ourselves and our peers? I do not see the need to answer that question. As for not including teachers, I think this is a grave mistake. We all have had a teacher whom we respect and admire and who we would be honored to have address us.

I do not ask much of the principals. Only that those graduating set the rules for graduation. After all, this day is for us and us only. Graduation is not for our parents, our teachers, or our principals, although we invite them all to join in our happiness and are honored by their presence.

Mr. Robinson has proposed a solution. If enough seniors sign a petition asking for a reversal of their ruling, the principals would reconsider their decision. I hope that all of you, as concerned seniors, sign this petition, and together we can make graduation truly ours.

Thank you,
Alexander Phillips
Class of 1989

Security Guard Fails At His Duties

To the Editor:

Recently, I have been watching the High School's security guard. It seems to me that by paying less money for this new guard, we have basically bought a guy to sit in his car and do nothing all day.

The other day when I drove by the guard, I saw him sleeping. I drove in reverse straight at him and he didn't wake up. Then I skidded loudly in front of him and he still didn't wake up. What the hell is this guy doing? He sure doesn't check whether cars have stickers because my car has been parked in the student parking lot since the beginning of the year and I have not received a ticket, been towed, or anything.

I see the security guard's car parked and empty at the loading docks by the automobile room more than anywhere else. Is this what we're paying this guy for? If the administration really thinks that we need a security guard, how about getting one who earns his money?

Sincerely,
Jeremy Marin

Support of Senate VAX BIll Requested

To the Editor:

I wish to make the staff and students of Lexington High School aware of a problem that exists regarding the use of the VAX terminals in our student library. The current rules regarding library terminals are too strict. The rules state that terminals, the printer, and the computer mail feature must be used for educational purposes or projects relating to school work. In trying to enforce these rules the librarians are causing unpleasant experiences for VAX users. For example, a while ago, two students were working on a computer class project, using a VAX terminal in the library. A librarian told them to leave, explaining that what they were doing "didn't look like school work." This is one of many incidents in which students were told to leave a VAX terminal in the library. I have had similar problems. When using VAX terminals I almost always have had a librarian looking over my shoulder, asking what I am doing and reminding me of the rules. Writing a computer program is very difficult under these conditions.

One morning before school I was in the library reading my computer mail. I was the only student in the library that morning. I was told to leave because I was using computer mail for purposes other than "current school assignments," and that was against library rules. How was I supposed to know what my mail was about before I read it? I was disturbing no one and doing nothing wrong, yet I was in violation of the library rules.

Recently, I, along with a group of friends, submitted a bill to the Senate to have these rules changed. Some people may think that this change would give too much freedom to students to bother people in the library. I believe this is not true. Most of the students who use VAX terminals are devoted programmers. As for those who do not cooperate, the rules still allow librarians to make these students leave. What we have written is, I believe, a fair compromise to improve relations between students and librarians and to make using the VAX a more pleasant experience. I ask for the support of the LHS staff and students.

Thank you,
George Proakis

Musket

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Evaluation of Geiger Alienates Staff

As the somewhat revised School Committee settles into office, one hopes that its two new members will bring to the body a higher degree of respect for the opinions of the faculty — a respect that has been severely lacking in the past.

The most glaring recent example of this attitude is the committee's gushing report of the performance of Superintendent Philip E. Geiger. The report describes his performance as meriting, as ex-Chairperson Paul Newman told the *Lexington Minute-man*, "straight A's." This review stands in sharp contrast to LEA President Margaret Schwartz's evaluation of a "C, C+" for the Superintendent. She later commented that the response of her co-workers to her evaluation was that "they didn't realize I was such an easy marker." The flaw in the School Committee's report is that it virtually ignores legitimate staff complaints about Geiger.

One example is the issue of Geiger's willingness, or lack thereof, to consider viewpoints which differ from his own. A common complaint among the staff is that the Superintendent is not particularly open-minded or receptive to complaints about certain policy implementations. In Schwartz's words, Geiger "simply does not tolerate differences of opinion very well." The committee does pause in its back-patting of Geiger to consider the question, commenting, "while we believe that you [Geiger] have listened seriously to these [diverse] points of view...some people feel that you do not have a sufficiently open mind to other views."

However, the report swiftly dismisses this possibility, calling the objections a result of Geiger's "initiation of so many changes,...[his] raising so many policy issues, and...[his] ma[king] a number of decisions which were opposed by many commentators." The committee says that "by disagreeing with people, some will feel [Geiger] did not listen." In other words, those who claim that Geiger ignores opposing opinions merely say so because he does not agree with their own opinions. Schwartz disagrees, saying "That is not the case at all. Nobody... expects to win all the time."

> The flaw in the School Committee's glowing report is that it virtually ignores legitimate staff complaints about Geiger.

Whether or not the School Committee's assessment is accurate, the committee owes the staff a more serious consideration of faculty complaints about Geiger, rather than accepting an atmosphere in which teachers believe, perhaps for good reason, that their concerns are viewed as insignificant.

The other area of faculty concern that the committee fails to deal with adequately is the state of the educational environment at the High School during Geiger's administration. While the committee praises Geiger for running the school system "with tremendous vigor, acumen and success," Schwartz addresses the issue by stating that classroom education has not become better while Geiger has been superintendent. According to her, one of the major problems is the Superintendent's top-down management style which causes "educational vision to be lacking" because Geiger fails to understand that ideas on education "must come from a group to have validity."

Lest one ascribe these opinions solely to teachers who do not wish high standards expected of them, outside observers have also noted these problems. In a recent report, the visiting NEASC team stated that it had a hard time confirming the High School's superior reputation "as a result of the climate in the building during our visit." Although other reasons are mentioned, "a combination of recent decisions made by the new superintendent" is cited as a factor in the climate problem. The report added, "The teachers and students feel disappointed with the new administrative fiats. Both the students and teachers feel that they deserve the opportunity to provide input in the decision-making process." Consideration of these very serious questions raised by the NEASC report and staff opinion is sadly missing amid the School Committee's lavish praise of Geiger.

The failure to address the criticisms leveled against the Superintendent reveals a failure to acknowledge the role of the staff. For the School Committee, the bottom line should always be, "What is in the best interests of academic quality in the schools?" If the teachers, who are expected to provide this quality, claim that the educational atmosphere has been compromised, the School Committee certainly owes the students of the town rigorous examination of the complaints, rather than the blind adulation heard thus far.

—Mike Grynberg

Letters, Continued:

English Curriculum Changes Unwise

To the Editor:

In a recent edition of *Musket*, I saw a letter written complaining of unfair treatment of a student by a librarian. There is a difference between nosiness and curiosity. I can't help but think that if a schoolmate, or even better, a cute schoolmate of the opposite sex were to ask the same questions, the student would have considered it friendly and highly acceptable. Or, of course, the student could have considered it highly degrading. But either way, I believe the complaints against the librarian are uncalled for.

Another subject I would like to comment on is the changes in the English curriculum. There no longer is an option for incoming honors level seniors. When there were two English classes in years past, at least according to what I've been told, one of the two was known to be an easier class, either because of the work or the grades. In any event, students went into either the harder or easier class, depending on their motivation. Now that there is no choice, the difference in levels of interest, motivation and skill in the classrooms will be too large. This is partly due to the fact that there is an immense difference in difficulty between the "Intensive" (Level 1) and "Honors" levels, resulting in a large group of people who really belong somewhere between. Also contributing to the problem is the fact that at the High School, if a student wants to, he can easily override a teacher's course recommendation, resulting in many students in higher levels than they belong. With the two-course method, these problems were somewhat alleviated, but with the new program, the problems will be magnified.

Also, the summer reading list for the one class offered contains a repeat from the present junior class summer reading list. Good — I've already memorized it.

Sincerely,
Cathy O'Neil

Updated Techniques Vital for Modern Education

Four studies in the past year have concluded that American school systems are insufficiently teaching science and math to their students. In the future, the failure of these school systems could hurt the United States economically as other nations take the lead in industrial and technological development. Problems outlined include outdated teaching methods and materials, overemphasis on memorization of facts, and not enough emphasis on both practical applications and the actual understanding of the concepts involved. The studies said that not enough general background is provided in these fields to allow the students to fully comprehend the data that is thrown at them.

The Lexington school system prides itself on giving its students a good education and producing learned graduates. But does Lexington provide a technical education up to par with schools of foreign countries?

As an educationally responsible town, Lexington has an obligation to give students an education that adequately prepares them for whatever future they choose, whether it be business, carpentry, music, or theoretical physics. But that is not an excuse for a curriculum which does not provide enough basic math and science education during early grades.

At the High School, first-semester freshmen in Level 1 Earth Science learn of astronomy, plate tectonics, and natural history. There is nothing taught in these units which could not have been explained, in nearly as much detail, to younger students. Many children pick up bits and pieces of information on their own, from television or books, during elementary school. That the elementary schools do not provide the opportunity for all students to absorb this information is a shame; children are smart enough to learn much more and much earlier.

This learning would probably occur if science at the elementary level were not merely squeezed into visits from specialists or onto bulletin boards in hallways. True, science experiments are performed in the elementary grades, but no practical applications are taught. Furthermore, few students learn much from the "Science Corner" bulletin boards which are set up in elementary schools. If a teacher were to set up such a board in his or her classroom, it might work. But trying to explain scientific theories to six- and 11-year-olds at the same time does not work — the age gap is too great. The fact that students only pass these boards as they rush to their buses does not add to the learning process.

The mathematics department at the High School teaches math that is considered "college-level" material, but a college mathematics professor recently noted that Lexington students have trouble with "the basics." They need to be better drilled in simple algebra, and to know more about the relation of concepts to one another. While few Lexington students need the "remedial" math courses colleges offer, few also have interest enough to choose mathematical careers.

While not a great problem in Lexington, outdated materials, such as globes and textbooks, need to be replaced. Also, with all due respect to the more experienced teachers in the system — many of whom are excellent — new teachers with recent educations and knowledge of contemporary theories should be hired. Ideally, the school system should provide a program for teachers who want and need to learn newer material. Unfortunately, considering the current budget crunch, this addition probably will not occur in the near future.

> As an educationally responsible town, Lexington has an obligation to offer an education that adequately prepares students for whatever future they choose.

Numerous changes have to be made in Lexington's curriculum in order for students to learn more important information, in sufficient detail, earlier in their lives. Care must be taken, of course, not to overburden children with too much information.

When and if the system is reformed, it must continue to change to provide an up-to-date education. A panel of teachers from various grade levels that would decide what concepts to introduce and when to introduce them might be a good idea.

Without significant change, though, Lexington's curriculum could grow obsolete, and graduating students, like so many others across the country, would be ill-prepared for the technical careers needed to keep America economically strong.

—Matthew Cole

Newly elected School Committee member Lois Coit.
Musket File Photo

New Members Elected to S.C.

Bussgang the Loser in Three-Way Race for Committee Seats

Continued from page 1

"There is a desire to get on, to put the problems behind," she said. According to Coit, parents wanted to see the legal proceedings regarding Principal Michael G. Waring to be settled out of court.

She said she believes that the Life Skills program should be expanded, and that purchasing new computer equipment for the High School should be a priority.

Oberteuffer said that while "there was no clear consensus" among parents regarding what the main issues at the High School were, there was a "desire to see some new faces" on the School Committee. He has not been directly involved with the school system before, outside of his capacity as a parent.

> "There is a desire to get on, to put the problems behind."
>
> —School Committee member Lois Coit

"People seem to want some new ideas," he said. Oberteuffer has proposed the creation of a panel of Lexington citizens "experienced in the school system" to advise the School Committee "in analysis and research of the [teacher] morale problem." He said he thinks the Waring issue is "close to its end point," and added that he is "looking forward" to serving on the School Committee.

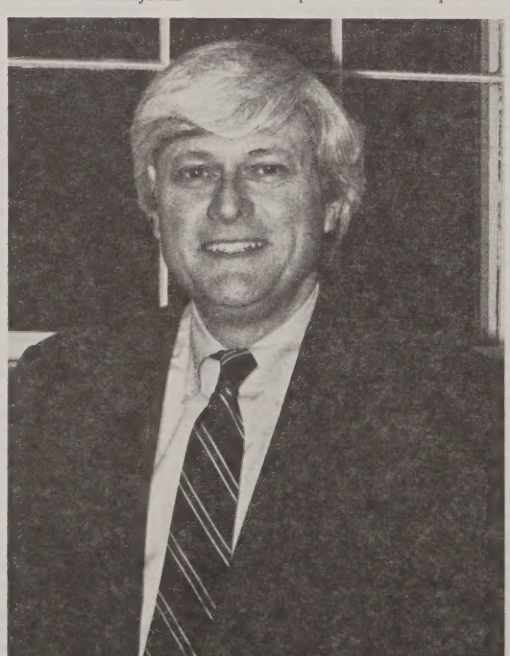
Bussgang attributed his narrow loss to the "light turnout" and to "cold weather."

"It was not a problem of the people who I talked to not voting for me, but of the people who I didn't talk to not voting for me," he said. Bussgang said he believes that the issues that the High School now faces are different from the issues faced several years ago, when he was a high school parent.

"The focus of my campaign was on the issues raised in the NEASC report [on the High School,]" he said. The High School should further develop its Life Skills program and try to create more programs for "less motivated students," he added.

Additionally, Bussgang said the system of the department heads must be reworked in order to provide for closer evaluation of the school's curriculum.

Despite his loss, Bussgang said he plans "to continue being interested in the school system."



Newly elected School Committe member John A.Oberteuffer.
*Musket*File Photo

Waring, S.C. Agree to Sign Legal Settlement

Continued from page 1

needn't be anymore."

Current committee member Al Zabin said, "I am very pleased that we were able to settle the case."

"I think everybody on the committee is genuinely pleased that the whole issue is resolved and... that we very much want to put it behind the whole town and the whole system and get on with all the things that need to be done at the High School," commented newly elected member Lois Coit.

When asked how he felt about leaving his job as principal of the High School, Waring said, "I like this place. I like working here, but in terms of ultimate professional growth, one has to go on and do other things."

According to the press release made available after the signing of the settlement, Waring, as an assistant superintendent, will be involved in "integrating the use of computers into the high school curriculum and continuing his current study of possible high school curriculum changes."

Although the position does not currently exist, said Waring, there is "plenty of time to decide how to carve it out of whatever the administrative structure is going to be [in 1990-91]."

> "I'm sure that [Waring] is highly qualified and will be employed elsewhere."
>
> —School Committee Chairperson Polly Woodworth

He indicated that "if there is an opportunity that comes up during that year or that begins in the fall of 1990 elsewhere," he would consider leaving the Lexington schools before June 1991.

"To me, the most important issue was timing," he said, "This agreement allows me to have control over...when I make the change [out of the Lexington school system]."

Newman explained that the "outplacement services" portion of the settlement involves hiring a company "whose work it is to find employment."

He said, "By the terms of this agreement Mr. Waring's employment with us is going to end within the next couple of years. So we will offer — that is, we will pay one of these companies that we will agree on mutually to provide him those services." The funding for the outplacement services will come out of the school budget.

> "...one has to go on and do other things."
>
> —Principal Michael G. Waring

Waring said that he is not aiming to find another job as a principal, but that he might be interested in a higher position such as a superintendency.

He stated that he hoped the recommendation, to be written by Geiger, will be based "not only on [Geiger's] personal experiences with me but also by researching the record, because, of course, I had five years of accomplishment here prior to his arrival — and I do believe I accomplished a few things." Waring noted that the recommendation was not likely to be a major part of his next job search.

While the approximate figure of $40,000 can be broken down and tied specifically to Waring's unpaid back salary, Waring said that the figure of $125,000 for legal fees was proposed by the "other side" and does not necessarily reflect his costs.

According to School Committee Chairperson Polly Woodworth, the $125,000 figure was "decided upon between Mr. Waring's attorney and the insurance company."

"Interestingly enough, that was really out of Dr. Waring's hands and out of School Committee hands," she said.

Zabin said, "The back pay will have to come out of this fiscal year's budget," while "future obligations will come out of future budgets."

According to Waring, although the two parties in the case "had been very close to a settlement for a long time," the School Committee continued with the appeal because "in order for the negotiations to proceed, something had to be hanging over my head."

"In a sense," he added, "continuing the appeal kept the bargaining going."

Zabin said, "[Pursuing the appeal] wasn't to put pressure on Dr. Waring for negotiations so much but the only way the settlement would work would be if the insurance company payed him a sum of money for his claim. If we didn't continue the appeal there would be no leverage on the insurance company and therefore the case could never be settled."

"I couldn't have afforded [an appeal] without some more significant support from outside," said Waring. "I've borrowed lots and lots of money to do this so far. There will be a number of very happy people in the next couple weeks as I pay them back."

According to Waring, the release in the settlement means, "This is really over. We promise. We're not going to bring this up ever again."

Newman explained, "The School Committee and all of the other named defendants [Associate Superintendent Isa Zimmerman and former Superintendent J. Geoffrey Pierson] were prepared to say, 'We're not interested in suing Waring' and Waring in return was willing to say he had no interest in suing them. Mrs. Leader felt differently."

Because Leader and Waring did not sign a mutual release, they reserve the right to sue each other over matters pertaining to this case.

"That doesn't mean they will," said Newman, "...the rest of us didn't really care what those two folks did — that's really their business."

"All I can say is that I have rights which I have not explored," said Leader.

"I was perfectly happy to sign a release running to every one of the defendants," said Waring. However, he explained that because Leader was unwilling to release him, "I didn't feel that it was right for me to sign a release to her, because if I did, I couldn't sue her back."

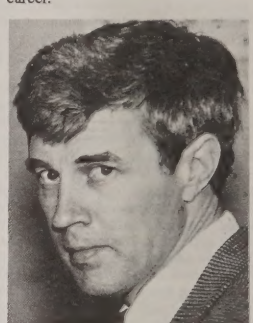
"I have not the foggiest notion [what Leader might want to sue me about]. It's not something I spend a whole lot of time thinking about," he added. Waring said that Leader has no claims against him "that currently exist in any court."

According to Waring, an administrator in Lexington earns 22 vacation days per year.

"In the course of all this business, I had lost some [vacation days]," he said, "[They've] been restored."

When asked if he "felt like he had won," Waring responded, "It is specifically stated...in the agreement that neither side will claim victory...Both sides essentially were satisfied with the outcome."

Waring said that he believes his having been suspended and fired in 1987 will not hurt his future career.



Principal Michael G. Waring
Musket File Photo

"The fact that I will have served for two years after my reinstatement as principal will, in almost every instance, mitigate any kind of concern that any future employer might have about why I was fired," he said.

"The only way it would hurt me in the future would be if there were somebody out there who didn't have enough of a sense of confidence in his or her ability to work with me, they would hesitate to hire me," he continued, "It would be an inter-personal thing, not a professional thing."

"I'm sure that [Waring] is highly qualified and will be employed elsewhere," said Woodworth.

When questioned about his role during his last years as principal, Waring said "No, I don't thing I'm a lame duck principal at all. People may treat me as a lame duck principal and that may be the case, and there's nothing that I really can do about that. But I'm not going to be a lame duck as far as my attitude or approach to the job."

"I do feel that I have a little bit more freedom as a consequence of this...to advocate for the things that I believe in,...to work as hard as I've been working," he said.

"I think the problems associated with my principalship are not associated with me as an individual, they're associated with the system," said Waring.

Senior Janet Doherty and freshman Martha Dalleanes dress in beach garb to celebrate Pride Week II. See story on page 2. Photo by Mako Yoshino

Students Organize *Rock for AIDS*

Continued from page 3

actual concert. Any band was eligible, but Winchester groups were given an extra 10 points to start off with. Bands were judged on appearance, musicianship, and showmanship. Out of the five bands who made it, three were from Lexington: Mirage, Wired and the Sticky Hippos.

Was the night a success? The bands seemed to think so: "We did well considering, but I'm a perfectionist," commented LHS junior Doug Thompson, bassist for Wired. (His group had rehearsed a total of two times prior to the performance.) Aaron Tap, a 1987 graduate of LHS who played with Peter Welch in the Sticky Hippos, also felt the performance was at least satisfactory. "It went over really well," said Tap, a guitarist. "There were some tech problems, and I was a little upset with my performance, but I was happy people danced."

The concert raised $15,000. All proceeds went to Interfaith AIDS Ministry, a group concerned with making sure people inflicted by the disease get the benefits of the money. An estimated 350 people attended the concert.

Rooney explained another way in which the whole idea is working. "Now bands are following me around trying to play. They have a mission or a goal instead of getting in trouble."

Pet Peeves Persist

Continued from page 3

from any colleges yet?"

Peers who complain about themselves annoy many students. Students often become irked when others complain about how badly they did on a test and then end up with an "A." Freshman Maureen Meehan hates to listen to someone describing how terrible she or he looks that day when the person actually looks great.

Noise is something that is often taken for granted. However, certain sounds annoy some people a great deal. Nails on a chalkboard and squeaky chalk bother almost everyone. Other "little noises" that really bother some people, especially when the producer of the noise is sitting right behind them during a test, are the sound of people cracking their knuckles, people clearing their throats all of the time, people humming or tapping on their desks, people slurping and cracking their gum, and the clunking of multiple bracelets on someone's arms.

Students are extremely aware of appearances. One senior hates guys who wear their sweatpants pushed up to their knees or people who wear sunglasses inside. Fantasia, said she hates "neutral-color nylons." (Good thing for stocking-makers that most women do not share her view.)

It is particularly annoying to watch a person who is not all "put-together." For example, Egan dislikes seeing a barrette halfway down someone's head that is no longer holding up any hair. Senior Alisha Bloom hates seeing the tag hanging out the back of someone's shirt. At least as bothersome is one's hair sticking to one's chapstick due to the wind, or one's own earring continuing to fall out; once it falls a few times, it seems to fall constantly.

Food can also be a source of displeasure. Most do not enjoy being given a soda that has been shaken up and sprays all over when it is opened. One senior hates it when people eat "with no manners," when people chew with their mouths open, and when she can hear them eating. She claimed that she is not picky; she just likes "appropriate manners."

Of course, students have many other pet peeves, many of which are completely unrelated to school and their peers. Fortunately, most students are able to focus on big issues and not worry overly about little annoyances. Students may cringe and mutter, "I hate that" every so often, but hopefully, pet peeves are not a source of constant irritation. One thing is certain: pet peeves are extremely amusing to discuss.

Jazz Band in Tune

Continued from page 1

and win and kill the other guy — that's not what it's about. It's about the fact that we make some good music."

"Tony is a solid drummer with a great sense of time. He's got no ego about wanting to be a soloist. He's a real team player and he really makes the group go...He's the backbone of the group."

"Peter has been a real leader in terms of providing material, providing on-stage, in-performance leadership...He's just a superb musician."

Adams has won a certificate of outstanding musicianship at every festival the group has attended.

In addition to playing, this year Adams has composed tunes for the jazz group, including "Only With You" and "Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Weckl."

Callis, Sarker, and Thompson have also received awards this year.

"There's a cohesiveness about this year's group," said Leonard, "They're all friends outside of the classroom as well as inside the classroom."

"We're like friends and stuff, you know?" said Callis, "That's the best part about it."

"It's not a class, it's a group," said Svanes.

"We have a real 'sack' group here... This is the best class," continued Callis, "If we're sick, we're going to come in [to class]. No matter what, we're in...You feel like you let everybody down [if you're not there.]"

"You feel like you have a commitment to this group," said Adams.

When asked about Leonard, Thompson said, "I think he's the greatest."

"He's the most motivating and inspiring teacher I've ever had," said Svanes.

"They have a tremendous willingness to work hard," said Leonard, "As long as they are willing to work I'll do whatever I can for them."

Leonard attributed the success of the Advanced Jazz Combo to the fact that Lexington "literally is the only public high school in the country with a leveled jazz improvisation program."

"It must be stressed that the only reason that an advanced group can exist is because we have three levels below. If the bottom drops out you can't have the top. People below are enthusiastic about what they hear above them. That is a motivating factor. You hear good music and you want to play better," said Leonard.

"There is something that touches the souls of the audience in every concert we do, and I know it's something that moves these people [the band members], it moves me, every time we play," he said, "It's the communication and connection that can only be said through the sounds that they make...There's something special about every note."

Smooth Production for *Mattress*

Continued from page 3

Despite its simplicity, the magical impression that the set gave was very tangible.

Senior Jared Entin, the stage manager, also found it "harder to organize [the stage crew] because a lot of the people were new at it." But these obstacles were also overcome.

"Everyone came alive after awhile," said one cast member who originally believed that *Once Upon A Mattress* was cast incorrectly. Norwood felt that one factor contributing to the success of the play was the enthusiasm of its performers. She believed that cast members were "throwing themselves into their parts" and that the unusual characters of *Once Upon A Mattress* were performed exceptionally well by the "very comical actors and actresses." Leonard agreed, noting that LHS is very lucky to have such a "huge pool of talent to draw from." LHS is one of the only high schools he knew of that has an all-student pit orchestra and has most of the lead parts double-cast.

The Friday and Saturday night audiences were, according to set crew painter Annika Hipple, a sophomore, "very enthusiastic" and "responsive." Sophomore Winnie Liang commented that the musical was "very professional" and added that she was "impressed with the actors." Sophomore John Duncan felt that "the plot and script were not up to the caliber of the actors."

Many teachers and parents also attended the musical. LHS math teacher Benjamin Levy was "delighted to see [his] students perform" and said that he "had a lot of fun" watching the show.

The enthusiasm of the cast was evident from the comments of the performers themselves. Freshman Peter Bellini, a member of the chorus, gave one word to describe the musical, "Stupendous!" Sophomore Jessica Bloom, another chorus member, felt that "everyone loved it [the show]" and that both nights "went very well." Berger was "excited to do the part" of Prince Dauntless and felt that he was "able to let go" during the performances. Senior Allen Stering, who has been in many of the plays over the past couple of years, felt that "the audience was better than the ones from other years." Perhaps Bloom best summed up the feelings many held about *Once Upon a Mattress*: "Awesome!"

The Saturday night cast of *Once Upon a Mattress* looks on as Queen Agrravain, played by Laura Pesin, reprimands her son, Prince Dauntless, played by Dan Berger. Photo by Kelley Burke

The student/faculty volleyball tournament was one of several activities held during the second annual Pride Week. Here, senior David Schaye prepares to slam Volleyball Coach David Lautman, whose team eventually won the tounament.

Photo by Mako Yoshino

Second Annual Pride Week

Continued from page 2

"Minutemen Pride" T-shirts, hats, and blue and yellow balloons and carnations.

"Beach Day," planned for the final day of Pride Week, was, according to some, not as well publicized as many of the earlier events, and was therefore not so widely participated in.

> For juniors and seniors [Pride Week] just basically brings everyone together."
>
> —senior Wendy Koenig

"Anyone who dressed up for beach weather when it was zero degrees out was thoroughly stimulated," said senior Adam Orenstein.

"A lot of people were not even informed [about Pride Week events]," said senior Nikki Marquis, "I think communication was a lot better last year."

"They should have promoted [Pride Week] better," added junior Sylvia Quo.

Acting Assistant Principal for Student Affairs Larry Robinson explained that the lack of communication resulted from the absence of several planned announcements that were never made and insufficient time allowed to thoroughly organize Pride Week. Last year, said Robinson, more time was allowed to plan Pride Week.

"I think that [Pride Week] is really important for freshmen and sophomores because it gets them interested in the school," said senior Wendy Koenig, "and maybe it will help them to contribute more in their activities, in responsibility toward the school."

"For juniors and seniors," she continued, "it just basically brings everyone together. It's a time to have fun in their final years at the High School."

One senior said he thought Pride Week was better this year than last year "because of volleyball." However, he noted the fact that last year students rallied around the basketball team which was advancing in the state tournament, whereas this year the team was eliminated in the first round.

1989
LHS
SENIOR SPLASH
Seniors who purchase tickets for the All-Night Graduation Party will receive a Tee-shirt with this design. Tickets go on sale in late May.

LHS Science Fair Held

By Dena Weinstein

Juniors Christina Chu and Venktesh Ramnath were the co-winners of the annual LHS Science Fair held on Thursday, March 9. Their projects were two of 16 entries that were chosen from a total of 60 to advance to the regional fair in Somerville. Winners there advanced to the state fair at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Biology, chemistry, and physics were the three major fields represented at the high school fair. Projects ranged from complex mathematical proofs to evaluations of orange juice. Twenty-one judges, many from the science department, evaluated the projects and stayed at the school until midnight to determine the winners.

Chu's winning project is entitled "A Novel Approach to Peritoneal Dialysis." Peritoneal Dialysis is a method of cleansing the body through external means for people whose kidneys do not function properly.

She improved upon a system of dialysis that uses a surgically implanted catheter, allowing patients to undergo dialysis in the privacy of their own homes, instead of going to a hospital. The problem with this method is that the risk of infection is higher than with older methods.

Chu thought of a way of lowering that risk. "I read in a medical journal a proposal of lowering the risk of infection by using microwaves. I thought it would be easier to do than with sterile syringes."

When asked about the possibility of getting a patent on her invention, she replied, "That's what everyone says I should do. But patents cost about twenty thousand dollars. I'll see what happens in the next science fair."

Ramnath's project entitled "Photolysis of Water Pollutants" used photolysis reactions to break down harmful chemicals that are produced by the paper industry and discharged into the ocean.

Ramnath said he got his idea from his tennis coach. "He is a chemist at Polaroid, and I really wanted to do a chemistry project," he explained.

"I asked his advice, and he told me to look up photochemistry...I spent the week of December vacation researching, and formulated my idea," Ramnath stated.

Superintendent of Schools Philip E. Geiger was present and commented on the projects, "This is really impressive. The experiments are so advanced...I saw the science fair at Clarke Middle School today, and I can really see how the students have progressed through the system."

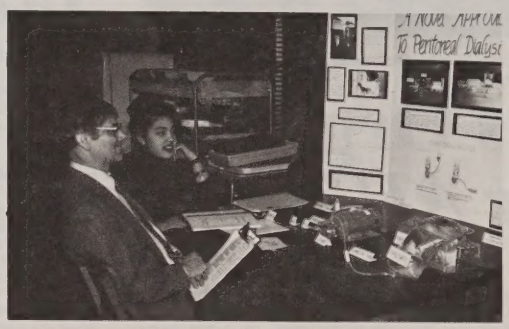
"What is especially good in doing this type of project is that in doing it one gains the whole idea of doing an experiment and going through the process," said Geiger. "I can only say that it is truly impressive."

Judges also were impressed by the students' work. Judge Robert Randall said, "Fascinating! It's really interesting what a variety of areas students have covered."

The other fourteen students who will take their projects to the regional fair in Somerville are junior Ann Chen, junior Weihaw Chung, junior George Cooley, senior Sara Dempster, sophomore Nancy Kim, junior Shing Kong, junior Eric Lee, junior Eleanor Menzin, sophomore Anjan Mukherjee, junior Cathy O'Neill, junior Juhan Sonin, junior Michael Sonnenschein, sophomore John Tedrow, and junior Peter Welch.

A special award was presented to seniors James MacInich and Dan Goodwin, who designed and built a Tessla coil capable of generating over 200,000 volts of electricity.

Students from all four high school grades were represented in the fair.



Science teacher Richard Raczkowski and junior Christina Chu look over Chu's award-winning science project, one of nine LHS entries to advance from the regional science fair to the state competition. The projects of Junior Ann Chen, junior Eleanor Menzin, sophomore Anjan Mukherjee, junior Venktesh Ramnath, junior Juhan Sonin, sophomore John Tedrow, junior Peter Welch, and one other student who has yet to be chosen also advanced.

Photo by Mako Yoshino

Tenure Denied

School Committee Follows Geiger's Evaluation of K-12 Math Head Gearhart

Continued from page 1

incompetency, insubordinance, or inefficiency."

Gearhart commented that in general, he felt the rest of the Lexington school staff has been supportive.

Schwartz said, "I understand that the School Committee has received lots of call and letters, some of which have been forwarded to me...I have not heard anyone who is pleased with the decision...there is a large number of displeased people."

Consortium Scholars

Juniors Andrew Ho, Jenny Lindwall, and Michael Sonnenschein have been nominated by the High School's Social Studies Department to participate in the Four-School Consortium for the 1989-90 school year. Middlesex School, Concord Academy, Concord-Carlisle High School, and Lexington High School are the schools making up the consortium.

Each school nominates three students to take place in the program consisting of a total of twelve seniors. Next year's topic, to be taught by of Kevin Jennings of Concord Academy, will be modern Latin America.

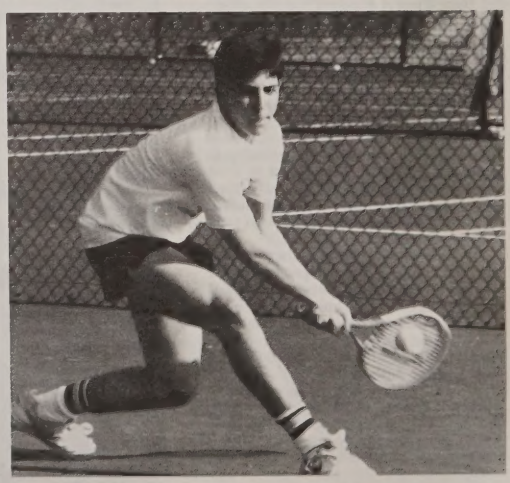
This is the third year the schools have cooperated in the Four-School Consortium. The consortium meets twice a week, and does not have any grades although two

Submit to Folio

LHS' Literary Magazine

Musket Honored

Musket was recently honored in the *Nineteenth Annual Greater Boston High School Newspaper Competition* sponsored by the Suffolk University Department of Communications and Journalism. The newspaper was awarded the "Excellence in Editorial Writing" award, and received an honorable mention in the "Excellence in News Writing" category. The student newspapers, 53 in all, were judged by members of the Massachusetts Press Association.



During a preseason tryout, junior Jim Weintraub shows off the backhand that he hoped in part would earn him a place on this year's varsity boys' tennis team.

Photo by Mako Yoshino

Veteran trackster senior David Wei heaves the javelin in practice for the upcoming season. The High School's boys' track team is looking to continue the success that the indoor team savored, with their only tough contest expected to be Reading in May.

Photo by Mako Yoshino

Track in Prime Shape

By Jason Kissell

After running to a very successful indoor season in which it placed second in the Middlesex League behind Reading, the Lexington High School boys' outdoor track team is looking to continue its good fortune.

Many of the people who ran for the indoor team are continuing for the outdoor team and should, therefore, be in good shape once the new season rolls around.

Lexington's strongest events will most likely be the distances: the 800-yard, the mile, and the two-mile.

The mile crew will consist of senior Matt Simon, a Boston Globe All-Scholastic in Cross-Country and the Middlesex League MVP indoors, junior John Raach, an accomplished miler indoors (4:35) and sophomore Ed Single, the winner of the Freshman/Sophomore Meet 1000-yard run.

In the two-mile, the Minutemen will field two runners who were both indoor League All-Stars. Senior Dwight Holmes will vie to break the 10-minute mark (his personal best is 10:08) while sophomore Ted Fitzpatrick, winner of the Freshman/Sophomore Meet 2-mile in 10:02, will try to do the same.

In the half-mile, or 800-yard, junior Nick Nebolsine is looking to continue the success he had when running the 600-yard run indoors. Nebolsine is a Class Meet qualifier who could definitely do some damage outdoors.

Other distance runners who will surely turn some heads are sophomore Yeh-Jiun Tung, junior Billy Brincklow and senior Rob Wand.

In the sprints, the Minutemen will be led by the senior tandem of Tony Castleman and Paul Warner. Castleman made the Class Meet indoors despite being plagued by both toe and hamstring injuries and is looking to run successfully in the 100-meters. Warner came back after being injured early on in the season to run many fine races and, given a full season, he could surely be a league force in the 200-meters.

Kenny Richards, a sophomore, proved indoors that he is a talented runner and he will look to carry this talent with him to the 100-meters outdoorss. Also a sophomore, Matt McCormack should grab some valuable points in the 200-yard.

Given the opportunity to run more than one event outdoors, Simon will be Lexington's primary quarter-miler. With a personal best time of 52 seconds, Simon is definitely among the league's best in the event. Senior Sang Ahn is also looking to carry his 600-yard experience with him into this event.

In both the 110-meter hurdles and the 300-meter low hurdles, senior Mike Grynberg and junior Joey Wong represent Lexington's best. Both League All-Stars indoors, Grynberg and Wong will clearly be among the best in the league.

Although they have hindered the team in the past, the field events have the potential this year to help the team. In the javelin, senior David Wei, sophomore John Kiladis and Simon are all experienced throwers and will definitely use this experience to help them.

The shot-put crew will be led by senior George Lang and the discus by Wei.

In the jumps, League All-Star and State Meet qualifier senior Doug Wilson will compete in both his forte, the high jump, and the long jump — another event he has been successful at. Grynberg will compete in both the long and the triple jump, two events he is experienced with.

Both of the relay teams, the 4x100 and the 4x400, should be strong as the Lexington team is deep with talent.

Seniors Guide Girls' Tennis

By Sarah Estow

Due to the return of many seniors and the revival of team spirit, this year's edition of the Lexington High School girls' tennis team has a bright future ahead of it, according to Coach Bruce Mallory.

"This year I'm trying to stress the little things that make an individual sport like tennis feel more like a team sport," Mallory said. Found among the list of new team-oriented activities are more team running, calisthenics, and drills. Mallory added, "We just need more activities that bring people together."

Senior co-captain Sharon Glick reaches to crush the ball in a recent preseason practice.

Photo by Mako Yoshino

As far as returning varsity players are concerned, co-captain Sharon Glick, a senior, will be returning for her fourth varsity year, her third in the number one singles slot. Next on the Netwomen's ladder is junior Michelle Tenpas, who will most likely be playing second singles.

Last year's first doubles duo, seniors Nikki Marques and Sonia Herrmann, is expected to remain intact throughout the season.

Who will fill the third singles and second doubles slots is anyone's guess. Returning varsity seniors Sheila Woodbridge and co-captain Sarah Estow will be switched around until a solid combination is found.

Two more seniors, Rachel Levy and Eileen Anderson, will provide the necessary experience a sport like tennis requires.

The large number of seniors on his team is seen by Mallory as an advantage over the other teams in the league. "I believe that they [the seniors] will set the tone for the rest of the team...a mature and competitive tone," he said.

Other returning players include junior Jen Casper and sophomores Buqet Cinkilic, Anjali Nagpaul, Becky Portnay, and Charlotte Woodbridge.

Mallory refused to make any predictions for his team but said instead, "All I can say as far as predictions are concerned is that we'll start as a team and end as a team and in between we'll play as hard as we can. Whether we're first in the league or tenth in the league, it doesn't matter."

Senior David Hadley wins the tap in Lexington's loss to its first-round tournament opponents, BC High. The High School's boys' basketball team enjoyed a fine season in which it finished second in the league and qualified for the state tournament. Although it will lose many seniors, the team hopes to have similar success next year.

Photo by Jon Yoken

Lloyd Mumford

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most of the people who were saying that really didn't know the team. We tried to keep everything in our little family as a team. We didn't care what anyone else said. In practice we worked hard together as a team, and in the games we worked together as a team. It's just that we all have different roles."

It was disappointing for Lloyd to see his team outplayed and knocked out of the state tournament by Boston College High School in the first round. Yet this unfortunate event brought him closer to his future, a future at Villanova University on a full scholarship and possibly the National Basketball Association (NBA), his "ultimate goal".

"I picked Villanova," explained Lloyd, "because I knew they had a program where I could go in and play. It was really a family atmosphere and it reminded me a lot of Lexington."

Lloyd agrees that playing on the collegiate level will be a switch, but in this instance he has the advantage of experience.

"I figure it will be like coming to Lexington, learning a new system, meeting new people, starting all over again," he said.

Lloyd said he hopes that with hard, continuous work over the summer he will get quite a bit of playing time and potentially the honor of a starting position at Villanova.

Do not be surprised if one day, *Sports Illustrated* arrives with a cover picture of the Amazing Mumford sailing through the air in an NBA uniform.

Girls Win State Track Championship

By Jason Kissell

The LHS girls' indoor track team has written yet another chapter in its book of Massachusetts State track titles. After running to the Middlesex League title for the fourth straight year, the Minutemaids won the Class A Championship and the All-State Meet, putting themselves at the head of the state.

The team needed a win in the last event, the 4x400 meter relay, to defeat both Randolph and Foxboro by two points. Lexington tallied 26 points on the strength of a third place finish by senior Leslie Singer in the 300-yard, a first place finish by junior Jay Hartshorn in the 1000-yard and the relay victory.

After blazing through the league in the 300-yard during the regular season, Singer went into the State Meet with a lot of confidence. In the trials, Singer blazed around the Harvard track in 36.7 seconds to qualify her for the finals in the fastest heat.

Racing against sprinting standout Trevy Mathews of Foxboro and other well-known experienced runners, Singer ran a fine race and placed fourth in her heat in 36.8 seconds. Because of a disqualification to another runner, Singer was awarded third place.

"It was my best time by a lot," said an exhuberant Singer. "I changed my strategy for this meet and luckily it worked."

In her finest performance of the season, Hartshorn out-distanced Cambridge's Deena Washington, the runner she finished behind in the State Coaches Meet earlier in the season. Hartshorn kept with Washington for the entire race and passed her with a quarter-mile to go, much like she had done a week earlier when she won the Class A 1000-yard run. Hartshorn ran the State Meet race in a personal best time of 2:42. A junior, Hartshorn will definitely be a force next year.

After winning the Class A 4x400 meter relay, the Lexington team of junior Amy Marx, sophomore Sarah Hutchinson, Hartshorn and Singer went into the State Meet as the team to beat. Marx ran an excellent first leg as she brought home the baton first and made a clean pass to Hutchinson.

Hutchinson took the baton and continued to lengthen the Minutemaid's lead as she ran an excellent quarter-mile. Hartshorn similarly ran a strong leg and stretched the Lexington lead to 15 meters.

Singer took the baton from Hartshorn and ran comfortably for the first lap of her two-lap leg. As she ran comfortably, Foxboro's Mathews and Norwell's Alicia Porro both closed in and vied for the lead. But as soon as Singer sensed the two runners getting close she put on her kick and pulled away from both of the runners.

Singer crossed the finish line a good 10 meters ahead of her counterparts in 4:02, the team's best time of the season.

Other competitors in the State Meet were Marx who finished a very respectable eighth place in the hurdles and sophomores Latisha McQueen and Hutchinson who ran well in the 300.

In the Eastern United States Meet, also at Harvard, the relay team ran a personal best time of 4:01 as they finished third, capping off one of the indoor track team's most successful seasons ever.

Good friends Lloyd Mumford and Tony Davis have shown that their friendship definitely extends onto the basketball court. Both were cornerstones to Lexington's successful team this year, Lloyd leading in scoring and Tony one of Lexington's leading rebounders.

Photo by Sarah Estow

Villanova and Beyond For Lloyd Mumford

By Miriam Friedlander

Who would believe that senior Lloyd Mumford, Lexington High School's star point guard, did not start playing basketball until he was 11 years old? Yet the surprise lessens when one learns that Lloyd has an uncle like Harry Wilson, who influenced Lloyd to make up in skill, talent, and extra practice what he lacked in experience.

Lloyd's success in basketball is made all the sweeter by his uneasy induction into the world of hoops. He credits this introduction to three factors: his supportive uncle, his playground observation of other players, and the court in his backyard. As a youngster, Lloyd played in various Boston leagues, Tiny Archibald's league.

What may shock those of us who have only witnessed his high school career is that not to far in the past Lloyd was not king of the court. Recently he confessed, "I used to lose every time I played. I had to learn the hard way. Really I would get embarrassed playing. I'd get stripped all the time." Not surprising considering his uncle had him playing with kids three years older than him.

It was especially difficult for Lloyd, who wanted to play with people his own age in order to have fun, to understand his uncle's loftier ambitions.

"It bothered me then, because I didn't know why my uncle had me doing this. He knew what he was doing, though. He was pushing me all along, just so that it would all turn out well at the end and I'd go to school,...but back then he just wanted me to work hard at it and keep playing."

Before he could face the pressure on the court, Lloyd not only had to complete his school work, but learned he had to do it well. "In my house if you don't get good grades, you can't play. In the sixth and seventh grades I didn't have good grades, so they wouldn't let me play."

The added incentive for good grades came with his acceptance into the Metco program. It was a big transition for Lloyd from Boston to Lexington, but he admitted the switch enhanced his potential as a basketball player.

"I think if I had stayed in Boston I probably would have never gotten a chance to play because the people I was hanging with were just a bad influence. It was hard to go in and do your work when no one else in the whole class was doing the work, not just your friends."

He thanked the Metco program coordinators, for entering him into a school where he could concentrate on his work and basketball at the same time.

Another plus in Lloyd's move to the Lexington school system was the presence of fellow basketball and football player Tony Davis, also a senior. Lloyd explained, "We grew up together and when I got to Lexington, he was the only [person] that I knew. He showed me the inside and outside things I needed to know. I met a lot of people through him."

Once Lloyd was comfortable in Lexington, he developed a close relationship with Varsity Basketball Coach Bob Farias, who he now considers to like another uncle. Farias became the head of Lloyd's other family: the boys' basketball team. Together, the team withstood criticism that Lloyd was executing all of the plays while everyone else helplessly stood around and watched in awe. Lloyd denied that the criticism affected his or the team's performance, and he questions the validity of the criticism's basis.

"It didn't bother me because

Continued on page 9

"Villanova...was really a family atmosphere... It reminded me a lot of Lexington."

—senior Lloyd Mumford

Senior Andrew Ojamaa, a tri-captain, demonstrates why Lexington's boys' lacrosse team should be both a league and state force in the weeks to come.

Photo by Mako Yoshino

Boys' Lacrosse Plans to Depend on Experience

By Jason Kissell

Returning with a strong offense, this year's boys lacrosse team is looking to continue much of the success the team enjoyed last year when it made its way to the State quarterfinals, finishing the season with a record of 13-5.

"How we do this year all depends on what the competition is like," said senior Jon Sidman.

"We have a very experienced attack," continued Sidman, "and if we come out of the first five games with at least three or four wins we'll be in good shape for the rest of the year."

Starting off the season, the Minutemen will face five tough teams. They host Winchester in the opener on April 7th and they face Lincoln-Sudbury, Concord-Carlisle, Burlington and Acton-Boxboro in succession, all "tough" games according to Sidman.

This year's team will be headed by tri-captains Jon Sidman, Andrew Ojamaa and Nat Bruce, all experienced seniors from last year's team.

Sidman comes into the 1989 season with a lot of momentum. Last year, Sidman was named to the All-Division 1 North team after his 70-point season of 54 goals, 16 assists.

Ojamaa was also a fine performer last season as he tallied 50 points on the strength of 29 goals and 21 assists.

Bruce, a middie, enjoyed a fine season last year in which he turned in consistent defensive and offensive performances.

Joining Bruce at middie is senior Jonah Schiller, a talented player who gained valuable experience from playing varsity last year. Other middies are seniors Brian O'Connor and Jeff Berndt and juniors Jon Speare, Peter Mahoney and Robbie Mason.

Although lacking in experience, the defense is looking to shut its opponents down. Joining senior Chris Spence, a varsity player last year, are seniors Greg Suffredini, Eric Poe and Pat Agostino.

"They are all great athletes and have the potential to be real good," said Ojamaa.

Sidman added, "We'll be tough to stop if they can get going."

The goal tending duties will be primarily taken up by junior Chris Agostino while sophomore Greg Weeks will provide the necessary back-up.

As for this year's boys' lacrosse team, it looks as if the beginning of the season could dictate the way the season is going to go. "Those games will be a big factor," noted Sidman.